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April 18, 2012

Honorable Jud Gilbert
Michigan State Representative
Anderson House Office Bldg.
124 N. Capitol
S-1185 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Gilbert:

I am writing to inform you of a harmful piece of legislation being considered in the State Legislature right now. SB 349, already passed in the Senate, is currently sitting in the committee you currently Chair, the House Committee on Tax Policy. This bill, as amended by the Senate, aims to make a series of changes to the General Property Tax. Proposed changes will cause numerous problems with local governments, adding an increased burden to the tax collection process for communities.

SB 349 aims to make a variety of unnecessary modifications to the General Property Tax that will complicate tax collection for local government and result in spending more money on this process. In a time where communities are struggling from lack of revenue from traditional sources such as revenue sharing, and potentially even the elimination of Personal Property Tax, it is imperative that we keep tax collection as a streamlined, cost-effective process. However, SB 349, if passed, would provide the exact opposite result. The bill seeks to change the deadline for filing an affidavit claiming the principal residence exemption to May 1st for taxes levied before the first of the year. This bill adds a second deadline on June 1st for taxes levied after December 31st.

As mentioned, the changed deadlines present added difficulties to tax collection, increasing costs and decreasing time efficiency of a formerly simple process. Specifically, the proposed modifications of deadlines will present an extreme challenge to auditing, creating significant accounting issues. Overall, SB 349, if passed, will create an unwanted burden on the communities who levy the taxes. I encourage you to research this incredibly prevalent and potentially detrimental piece of legislation. I strongly urge your vote against this legislation as it is written. Maintaining the existing tax collection process will allow local governments to better provide for its citizens, resulting in vibrant Michigan communities.

Sincerely,

**Charter Township of Northville
Board of Trustees**

Cc: Honorable Patrick Colbeck, State Senator
Honorable Kurt Heise, State Representative